

Economic cooperation with other countries has been the constant endeavour of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with other countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the European Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becoming an important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region.

[English]

#### Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

3190. Dr. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA;

SHRI GORDHAN BHAI JAVIA

SHRI VIJAY PATEL;

SHRI N.J. RATHWA;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government to rehabilitate the textile workers who rendered jobless due to closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat seeking assistance of the NIFT to make suitable arrangements for training the jobless textile workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The Textile Policy 1985, inter-alia while holding that there might be no alternative but to close down those textile units which had no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, also stressed that, the interests of the labour force, in the event of permanent closure of such units, would be fully safeguarded. Accordingly, the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) had been formulated. The TWRFS came into force with effect from the 15th September 1986. The objective of the

TWRFS is to give an interim relief to the mill workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of the mills. Relief under the scheme is available only for 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year.

(b) to (d) A proposal was made by Gandhi Labour Institute Ahmedabad to train a batch of workers in Garment Manufacturing at NIFT centre, Gandhinagar. It was suggested to fund this from National Renewal Fund. The scheme envisaged a course leading to skill formation and capabilities to operate in tiny sector a Readymade Garment unit. The proposal could not be considered as the funding was not available. It was also found that such training would be costly and involve expenditure of more than Rs. 20000/- per trainee.

[Translation]

#### Retraining of Employees

3191. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements for retraining of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and location of the States where such arrangements have been made; and

(d) the names of nodal agencies of the State Government which have been included in this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund was set up by the Government in February, 1992, to provide a social safety net for workers affected by industrial restructuring, technology upgradation and modernisation of Indian Industry. It, inter-alia, envisages assistance for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers. 13 nodal agencies have been approved for implementing this scheme in 49 locations in 16 states. Details of the nodal agencies and the locations is given as statement. Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad is the State Government Agency included in this scheme.

#### STATEMENT

##### Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) set up under NRF

Sl. No.	Name of the Nodal Agency	Location
1	2	3
1.	M.P. Consultancy Organisation, T.T. Nagar, Bhopal.	1. Napanagar (M.P.) 2. Bhopal (M.P.) 3. Korba (M.P.)
2.	Institute of Labour Development, Station Road, Jaipur.	4. Beawar (Raj.) 5. Kota (Raj.)

1	2	3
3.	U.P. Industrial Consultants Ltd., G.T. Road, Kanpur.	6. Saharanpur (U.P.)
4.	National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.	7. Gorakhpur (U.P.)
5.	Small Industries Development Organisation, Ministry of Industry, O/o the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi.	8. Delhi
6.	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, New Delhi.	9. Indore (M.P.)
7.	Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi.	10. Coimbatore (T.N.)
8.	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.	11. Indunagar (T.N.)
		12. Ramagundam (A.P.)
		13. Kanpur (U.P.)
		14. Bombay (Maha.)
		15. Calcutta (W.B.)
		16. Ranchi (Bihar)
		17. Howrah (W.B.)
		18. Hooghly (W.B.)
9.	National Productivity Council, New Delhi.	19. Bangalore (Kar.)
		20. Mysore (Kar.)
		21. Oorgaum (Kar.)
10.	Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad.	22. Petlad
		23. Bhavnagar
		24. Viramgaum
		25. Baroda
		26. Surendranagar
		27. Porbandar
		28. Kalol
		29. Navasari
		30. Ahmedabad
		31. Cambay
11.	Indian Council of Small Industries, Calcutta.	32. Durgapur (W.B.)
		33. Bokaro (Bihar)
		34. Sindri (Bihar)
		35. Vishakhapatnam (A.P.)
		36. Warangal (A.P.)
		37. Namrup (Assam)
12.	Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.	38. Madras**
		39. Hyderabad**
		40. Ludhiana**
		40. Ludhiana**
		41. Pune

1	2	3
		42. Lucknow
		43. Cochin
		44. Patna
		45. Cuttack
		46. Jodhpur
		47. Ambala Cantt.
		48. Jabalpur
13. Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur.		49. Barrackpore

\*\* DGE&T is operating through both ITI & ATI.

[English]

#### Tribal Population Exempts from Income Tax

3192. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tribal population of the country particularly North East and some other areas have been exempted from payment of Income Tax in view of their poor socio-economic conditions;

(b) if so, whether the 95 per cent population of Ladakh region has been declared scheduled tribe in the year 1989 and Income Tax exemption prior to 1989 were enjoyed by the entire population of Ladakh region; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not granting Income Tax exemption to the tribals of Ladakh region and remove the discrimination and disparity towards 95 per cent tribal population of that region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Sir, under clause (26) of section 10 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 a member of a Scheduled Tribe as defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution, residing in any specified area, is exempted from paying income tax on any specified income accruing or arising to him.

(b) There was no Scheduled Tribe in Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region prior to 1989. The Scheduled Tribes were declared as such for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir by the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. The 1991 Census was not conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and, therefore, the figures of Scheduled Tribes for Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region are not available as per this Census.

Income Tax exemption was provided to the residents of Ladakh through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1965 with

retrospective effect from 1st April, 1962, in view of the position that the residents of Ladakh and suffered hardship and their trade had been adversely affected as a result of Chinese aggression. This exemption continued upto the assessment year 1988-89.

(c) The reasons for not granting income tax exemption to the residents of Ladakh region after the assessment year 1988-89 are as follows:-

(i) Time to time increase in the exemption limit to the present limit of Rs. 40,000/-combined with other tax benefits such as standard deduction, deduction under section 80L, tax rebate under section 88, etc. take care of residents with poor economic conditions.

(ii) Income-tax exemption which was intended to benefit the poor sections of the people of Ladakh was benefitting the affluent and was being misused by unscrupulous businessmen for laundering their black money through the residents of Ladakh.

[Translation]

#### Agro Based Industry in Rural Areas

3193. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the steps taken by the Union Government to set up agro-based industries in rural areas during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the extent of success achieved by the Government as compared to the targets fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Agro-based industries are being promoted by the KVIC which has taken various steps to develop them. The KVIC provides financial assistance by way of grant and loans to its registered Institutions, Cooperative